

From: Robert B. Waltz
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/21/01 9:06am
Subject: Comments on the Proposed Settlement

I must write to express my dismay that the Justice Department is letting Microsoft off the hook so easily.

Let's look at it this way: I use a Macintosh, not a Windows PC. I'd like to buy a spreadsheet with macro programming capability. I have exactly one choice: Microsoft Excel. This is not a choice I want. This company is so omnipresent that it can dominate even the computing platform it DOESN'T absolutely control. Something has to be done.

I agree that Microsoft probably can't be broken up at this time; Windows is almost as much a part of our national infrastructure as the power grid. But it needs to be much more strictly controlled. Something needs to be done about the categories it dominates, such as spreadsheets and word processing. The logical solution, it seems to me, is to treat it as a public utility: As with a power or a gas company, it should need advocates for consumers overseeing its pricing practices, and ALL source code for EVERYTHING should be published so that competitors can see what Microsoft is doing.

I want that non-Microsoft spreadsheet. Any solution failing to provide that clearly has not addressed Microsoft's monopoly.

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